

What is claimed is:

1. A software deployment tool cooperable with a software package including a software package file incorporating at least one action defining respective modifications to said client processing system and at least one file required to implement said at least one modifying action, said tool comprising:

a plurality of classes, each class corresponding to a respective type of action;

means for reading said software package file and instantiating a class having attributes corresponding to the respective type of each of the at least one action of said software package file and setting the attributes of the at least one class according to the respective action definition in said software package file,

means for executing a check method on at least one of each of said at least one class instances to determine if a deployment operation can be implemented in a specified first mode;

means, responsive to a successful check, for executing a method on each of said at least one class instances in said first mode; and

means, responsive to check failure of any class instance, for executing a method on each of said at least one class instances in a second less preferable mode.

2. A software deployment tool according to claim 1 wherein said deployment operation is one of installation or removal of a software package.

5 3. A software deployment tool according to claim 1 wherein said first mode is an undoable mode and said second mode is a basic mode.

10 4. A software deployment tool according to claim 1 wherein said first mode is a basic mode and said second mode is a transactional mode.

15 5. A computer program product comprising computer program code stored on a computer readable storage medium for, when executed on a computing device, processing a software package file, the program code comprising the software deployment tool of claim 1.